

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Maeda in view of Cohen et al., stating that Maeda discloses a multichannel reproducing apparatus in which audio signals in a plurality of channels are processed, and by which processed audio signals of said plurality of channels are supplied to loud speakers respectively disposed for each one of said plurality of channels, wherein said multichannel reproducing apparatus comprises a loud speaker drive section for driving the loud speakers, a test tone generating section for generating a test tone signal to measure a distance between the speakers, a transmission time measuring section for measuring a time period taken from a time when said test tone is generated until a time when the test tone is received by the other loud speakers, a listening position input section and a delayed time controlled section, but does not teach a loud speaker position calculating section for calculating a cord position of each one of the loud speakers based upon the transmission time between loud speakers; Cohen et al. teaches a loud speaker position calculating section for calculating a coordinate position of each one of said loud speakers based upon a transmission time between the loud speakers; and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Maeda in view of the teachings of Cohen et al.

Before discussing the Examiner's rejection and the art cited, Applicant would like to point out that Applicant's invention relates to a multichannel reproducing apparatus in which the position information on various speakers can be acquired easily without any additional measuring or sensing apparatus (such as a separate microphone or a additional transducers).

With the above in mind, Applicant has carefully reviewed Maeda and respectfully submits that as is clear from drawings 1, 5, 8 and others and the description associated therewith, Maeda operates utilizing a separate measuring device, mainly the microphones 34 through 36. In particular, in Maeda a microcomputer successively supplies test signals from a sound source device to the speakers 22a through 22f and the acoustic test signals are collected by the microphones 34 through 36 of the remote controller 33 and the kind and position of each one of the speakers 22a through 22f is discriminated (see paragraphs 0015, 0016 and 0018).

In contrast to Maeda, in Applicant's invention each speaker receives the test signals from the other speakers so that the position information on the loud speakers is acquired (see figures 6 of Applicant's application). The user can then select a preferable listening position among the

selectable listening positions calculated on the position information on the loud speakers acquired without any additional measuring device.

In addition, Applicant has carefully reviewed Cohen et al. and respectfully submits that while Cohen et al. may perform calculations, Cohen et al. substantially functions in the way of Maeda. In particular, in Cohen et al. in the measurement mode, each one of the speakers generates a short sound which is received by the microphones 28 through 31 provided in the remote sensor 27 which has been positioned at the point where the "sound sweet spot" is desired (see column 2, lines 43-45 and column 5, lines 23-57 of Cohen et al.). As a result, Cohen et al. requires an additional means and the speakers are not used to receive the test tone upon which the calculation of the position is made.

In addition to the above, the Examiner suggests that a "listening position input section...rears loud speakers" is disclosed in Maeda. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has misunderstood Maeda and the listening position input section does not correspond to the remote control 33 in Maeda. In Applicant's invention the inputting of a listening position means inputting by a user by selection amongst one or more selectable listening positions calculated based on the position information on the loud speakers. In contrast thereto, in Maeda, the listening point is determined by positioning a remote control 33. Also, Applicant respectfully submits that "a line connecting a center point between the pair of front speakers and the center point between the pair of rear loud speakers" is also not disclosed in Maeda. Still further, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Maeda nor Cohen et al. teaches one or more selectable listening positions are provided since in both Maeda and Cohen et al. the listening point is determined by arranging a measuring device and from the sound of the test signal received by the measuring device, the position of the loud speakers are calculated and the required placement of the speakers is determined. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that there is no selectable positions at all in neither Maeda or Cohen et al.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination suggested by the Examiner is not Applicant's invention and the claims 1 and 5 are not obvious over Maeda in view of Cohen et al.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Request for Reconsideration be carefully considered by the Examiner and the finality of the rejection be withdrawn.

AUG 31 2007

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Request for Reconsideration or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

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